



# Department of Toxic Substances Control



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California Environmental  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**United Technologies Corporation  
Pratt and Whitney Space Propulsion  
Notice of Comment Period for the  
Draft Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Modification (Class 3)  
And CEQA Negative Declaration  
(EPA ID No. CAD 001-705-235)  
600 Metcalf Road  
San Jose, California 95138**

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is announcing a 45-day comment period from May 16, 2003 to July 3, 2003, on the proposed modification of a hazardous waste facility permit, and associated CEQA Negative Declaration for United Technologies Corporation, Pratt and Whitney Space Propulsion located at 600 Metcalf Road, San Jose, California.

United Technologies Corporation, (Pratt and Whitney Space Propulsion) generates hazardous wastes from operations at their facility. These operations include servicing of rocket propulsion units for the US Government which includes removal of off-specification rocket propellant, formulation of fresh rocket propellant, and installation of the fresh propellant into the rocket. Hazardous wastes are also generated as a result of remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater at the site. The facility has been in operation at the current site since 1959. The wastes generated at the site are stored and/or treated before shipment off-site for disposal. The current permit issued to United Technologies authorizes treatment by hydroxylation of energetic wastes (materials prone to rapid burning or explosion as propellant or materials used in their formulation).

The facility is requesting permit modifications to:

- 1) authorize the chopping and shredding of energetic wastes into smaller pieces which permits more efficient treatment and transportation;
- 2) authorize desensitization of energetic wastes which consists of adding water or other inert materials to the wastes to render them more stable for storage, treatment, and transport;
- 3) add storage facilities to authorize storage of energetic wastes in storage magazines (bunkers);

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demands and cut your energy costs, see our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*

- 4) increase storage capacity in the main storage area by approximately 10 percent; and
- 5) adjust waste stream constituents and annual tonnages to reflect current operations.

Prior to reaching a decision on this project, DTSC, as Lead Agency under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), must consider the environmental effects of the project. DTSC has made an analysis of the environmental effects of these modifications as shown in the draft CEQA Negative Declaration and Initial Study. A Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon completion of the formal permit modification process.

Questions or comments related to the proposed draft permit, draft CEQA Negative Declaration and/or Initial Study should be sent to Andrew Berna-Hicks, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3956. Written comments must be received on or before July 3, 2003. E-mail comments to: [Abernahi@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Abernahi@dtsc.ca.gov) or mail them to:

Andrew Berna-Hicks  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200, Berkeley, California 94710-2737

No public hearing is scheduled at this time, but one will be considered if requested.

The full administrative record pertaining to this matter, including the permit application, draft permit, fact sheet, and CEQA documents are available at the above address Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Phone (510) 540-3956 for an appointment. The draft modified permit, permit application, fact sheet, and CEQA documents are also available for review and copying at the Morgan Hill Public Library.

**Morgan Hill Public Library  
17575 Peak Avenue  
Morgan Hill, California 95037  
(408) 779-3196**

You may also contact Jesus Cruz, Public Participation Specialist at (510) 540-3933. For media questions, call DTSC Public Information Officer Angela Blanchette at (510) 540-3732.